

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a tireless champion for soldiers, veterans, and the middle class, a venerable lion of this body, and a treasured friend, Congressman Jack Murtha.

The first Vietnam veteran ever elected to the House of Representatives, Congressman Murtha dedicated his career to America's fighting men and women, and always worked to put our troops and their safety first. I consistently relied on his wisdom and his insights on matters of defense and national security.

From his position as Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Committee, Jack's extraordinary dedication to the well-being of our troops and their families was evident in his actions every day. He knew that keeping our soldiers out of harm's way meant providing them with state-of-the-art equipment, from submarines to helicopters. And with that in mind, he helped to maintain a defense-industrial base that brought high-paying, high-skilled manufacturing jobs both to his home state of Pennsylvania and my own state of Connecticut. His legacy will live on not only in his service to military men and women, but through the millions of jobs he helped to create in our region.

Jack was also concerned with the well-being of Americans waging another kind of battle, and he always supported critical funding for research on diseases such as cancer, AIDS, and diabetes. In short, he was a great ally to Connecticut, a great Pennsylvanian, and a great American, and he will be deeply missed. This House is smaller after his passing.

HONORING EDWARD BALOIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Edward "Ed" Baloian upon being awarded with the Ag One "2010 Community Salute." Mr. Baloian will be recognized on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Ag One event benefitting the Jordan College of Agricultural Science and Technology at California State University, Fresno.

In 1923, Ed Baloian's father, Charles, started a full-service produce business, Charles Baloian Company, Inc. In 1945, upon returning home from serving their country in World War II, Ed and his brother, James, joined their father as partners in the family business.

In 1965, the Baloians formed Pam Pak Distributors, Inc., to package and market fresh

vegetables from a large number of local growers. Ed Baloian took on the responsibility of managing the operations at Pam Pak Distributors. Just three years later, in an effort to increase their annual business and to supply the rising local demand for their products, Pam Pak began its own farming operation.

Mr. James Baloian retired from the family business in 1985, and later that year, Mr. Baloian and his son, Tim, started a new branch to the company, Baloian Packing. This new business continued the efforts of Pam Pak, their number one label, and included Marty Boy, Balo and Valley Jewels. With the increased business, Mr. Ed Baloian was elected Chairman of the Board and Mr. Tim Baloian was elected President of the Board of Pam Pak Distributors.

Today, the company continues to be headquartered in Fresno, California. Under Mr. Baloian's leadership the company has grown to include a majority of the San Joaquin Valley, with extensions into Mexico and Chile. The company is a leading California fresh fruit and vegetable grower, shipper and packer. The company specializes in bell peppers, lettuce, eggplant, red onions, melons and squash. The company ships these products to grocery stores, restaurants and food service customers around the United States and Canada.

Outside of the farming and shipping industry, Mr. Baloian is very active in Rotary, is a Paul Harris Fellow and has served on the council at Peoples Church in Fresno, California. Recently, Mr. Baloian accepted the Central California Excellence in Business Award on behalf of his company.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Edward Baloian upon being awarded with the Ag One "2010 Community Salute" for his tremendous support of the agriculture community. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Baloian many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE LAPORTE
FAMILY YMCA ON ITS 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the LaPorte Family YMCA, celebrating its 100th anniversary of serving the people of LaPorte and the surrounding communities.

For 100 years, the LaPorte Family YMCA has offered a variety of resources to its members. Its dedicated administrators, volunteers and community partners work tirelessly to uphold the organization's mission to promote positive values, investment in community, and mental, physical, and spiritual well-being.

Founded on December 9, 1908, it took LaPorte citizens less than 2 weeks to raise the

bulk of the \$65,000 necessary for the construction of the original YMCA facility. This building was completed in 1911. Since that time, the original YMCA building in LaPorte has undergone numerous renovations and additions. Finally, in 1995, the LaPorte YMCA was expanded to its current size of 11,000 sq. ft., which encompasses a teen center, weight room, pool, and a child care center.

As an evolving organization, the YMCA seeks to adapt to the community's needs while promoting family values. The LaPorte Family YMCA remains committed to the original mission of the organization to respond to the needs of the surrounding community. Today, the LaPorte Family YMCA continues to successfully fulfill this mission by providing quality services stressing literacy, safe child care and healthy lifestyle choices. These programs are not only well managed and effectively run but are also vital to the community at large and the YMCA's effort to make a difference in the community "one child, one senior, one family at a time."

So today, on behalf of the citizens of the Second District, I would like to congratulate the dedicated administrative personnel and community volunteers who make the LaPorte Family YMCA such an upstanding organization and outstanding resource for LaPorte and the surrounding communities.

HONORING PHYLLIS HICKS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today during Black History Month to remember the important contributions African Americans have made to our nation. I especially honor the extraordinary people who continue to help shape my community of Omaha and our great nation. Among the thousands of successful and talented African Americans in the second congressional district of Nebraska, I would like to pay special tribute to Phyllis Hicks.

Since 1967, Mrs. Hicks has run the Salem Stepping Saints Drill Team in Omaha and continues to be a volunteer and chief fundraiser for this youth group, which not only teaches young people drill skills, but also provides them with mentoring, tutoring and counseling. Through her outreach, she has helped many youths overcome barriers, especially discrimination. Phyllis is active in the NAACP, Black Business Women's Council and Urban League. She currently serves as marketing director for the Omaha Star Newspaper, Nebraska's largest African-American newspaper. Mrs. Hicks remains active, serving on several community boards, and her dedication to improving our community is recognized and appreciated.

Thank you, Phyllis Hicks, for your commitment to making the world a better place. Your

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